



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

PATENT

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date set forth below.

Tracy Partin
(signature)

Date of signature and deposit - Jan 16, 2001

10/ Reg for Reg 31.07

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
JASON A. POIRIER et al.

Serial No. 09/392,270

Filed: September 9, 1999

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD
OF MANUFACTURING A
VEHICLE FRAME ASSEMBLY

)
) Group Art Unit 3726
)
) Examiner Trinh Nguyen
)
) Attorney Docket 1-21036
)
)

TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

JAN 30 2001

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

RESPONSE

Honorable Sir:

In response to the Official Letter, Paper No. 9, dated September 13, 2000, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art as set forth in the specification. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 defines the invention as a method for manufacturing a vehicle frame component that includes the steps of providing a workpiece, performing a scanning heat treatment process on the workpiece in a continuous and longitudinal manner from one end to the other, and deforming the workpiece to form a vehicle frame component.